

HOUSE No. 1007

By Mr. Atsalis of Barnstable, petition of Demetrius J. Atsalis
relative to dress codes in public schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO DRESS CODES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by striking Section 83 and inserting in place thereof the
3 following section:—

4 Section 83. School officials shall not abridge the rights of stu-
5 dents as to personal dress and appearance except if such officials:
6 a) determine that such personal dress and appearance violate rea-
7 sonable standards of health, safety and cleanliness or b) are acting
8 in accordance with a code of personal dress and appearance as
9 authorized by the school committee of each city, town, or regional
10 school district after reasonable consultation with the school coun-
11 cils of each city, town or regional school district; and c) only if
12 said standards or code of personal dress and appearance are
13 defined and included in the official student handbook, or are dis-
14 tributed to each student and his parent or guardian at the start of
15 each school year, or upon enrollment, whichever occurs first.

1 SECTION 2. Section 86 of chapter 71 is amended by striking
2 out the text in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the
3 following:— The provision of sections 83 to 85 shall apply only
4 to municipal, vocational and regional school districts that accept
5 the same by a majority vote of the school committee, or in the
6 case of a charter school, by the board of trustees.